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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 8 February 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for information purposes, resolution No. 00-01/2017 (Annex I) and the final communiqué of the second regular session of the Conference of Heads of State of the Group of Five for the Sahel, held on 6 February 2017 in Bamako, Republic of Mali (Annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dianguina dit Yaya **Doucouré**
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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Please recycle

Annexes to the identical letters dated 8 February 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Annex I

Resolution No. 00-01/2017 on creation of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel

Bamako, 6 February 2017

The Heads of State of the Group of Five for the Sahel:

– *Recognizing* the grave security situation in the Sahel region,

– *Convinced* that the fight against terrorism can be effective only as part of a comprehensive and coordinated approach,

Have resolved as follows:

To immediately establish the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in accordance with option I in the short term, and with option II in the medium and long term, taking into account the following factors:

– A clear mandate from the African Union and the United Nations;

– Sustained financing of the Joint Force;

– Clear rules of engagement to combat terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration.

The mandate of the Joint Force will be to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime.

Summit

Annex II

Second regular session of the Conference of Heads of State

Final communiqué

Bamako, 6 February 2017

The second regular session of the Conference of Heads of State of the Group of Five for the Sahel was held on 6 February 2017 in Bamako under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Idriss Deby Itno, current Chair of the Conference of Heads of State.

In attendance were:

- His Excellency Mr. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea and current Chairman of the African Union, as a special guest;
- His Excellency Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso;
- His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali;
- His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania;
- His Excellency Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of the Niger.

During the session, the Heads of State discussed the agenda item entitled "The security situation in Mali and its impact on the Sahel region".

The Heads of State noted that the security situation in the Sahelo-Saharan region was characterized, on the one hand, by a breakdown of governance in Libya and, on the other, by the resurgence of terrorist attacks by extremist movements in northern Mali, Burkina Faso and the Niger.

In addition, the increase in violent extremism and radicalization, proliferation of small arms, trafficking in drugs and migrants, human trafficking and their links with transnational organized crime were growing, causing higher levels of concern.

The Heads of State said that despite the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process, the security situation in Mali remained grave, owing to continuing asymmetrical attacks by terrorist and extremist groups targeting civilians, the Defence and Security Forces of Mali and international forces.

The cowardly and barbaric suicide attack of 18 January 2017 in Gao, Mali, against the Operational Coordination Mechanism camp responsible for deploying the long-awaited joint patrols represented a major innovation in the modus operandi of terrorist groups.

The Heads of State condemned that unspeakable brutality without reservation and in the strongest terms, and expressed their deepest condolences to the people and Government of Mali.

Turning to the peace process in Mali, the Heads of State welcomed the efforts of the Government of Mali under the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic and Head of State, to implement the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation emanating from the Algiers process.

The Heads of State called on the armed group signatories to the Agreement to show good faith, sincerity and goodwill in their commitments.

The Heads of State welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2295 (2016) of 29 June 2016, which had given a robust and proactive mandate to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). However, they regretted that the major innovations contained therein had been slow to materialize on the ground because of persistent capacity gaps with respect to aircraft, armoured vehicles, logistical support and the protection of forces.

They called on the Security Council to provide MINUSMA, as a matter of priority, with appropriate resources to fulfil its stabilization mission in Mali and to support the Government of Mali in the gradual redeployment of the defence and security forces throughout the country.

The Heads of State welcomed the renewal of the MINUSMA mandate and United Nations support for the Group of Five for the Sahel through Security Council resolution 2295 (2016), which expressly provided for the establishment of a framework for regional security cooperation among the Group of Five for the Sahel. Cross-border joint operations were another initiative under serious consideration in the fight against transnational threats in the region.

The Heads of State, aware that cross-border security threats were an impediment to development in the Sahel-Saharan strip and in Group of Five for the Sahel member States, welcomed the proposal made on 24 January 2017 in Niamey to establish the Liptako-Gourma Multinational Security Force, a component of the Joint Force established by the Heads of State at the summit of 20 November 2015 in N'Djamena.

The Heads of State discussed the outcomes of the second annual meeting of defence and security ministers, which had been expanded to include the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Five for the Sahel.

They agreed as follows:

(1) To immediately establish the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in accordance with option I in the short term, and option II in the medium and long term, while taking into account the following factors:

- A clear mandate from the African Union and the United Nations;
- Sustained financing of the Joint Force;
- Clear rules of engagement to combat terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration;

(2) To promptly eliminate visas for all types of passports in accordance with the legal provisions in force in each country;

(3) To give more in-depth consideration to how a fund could be established to finance defence and security activities.

At the regional level, they reviewed the prevailing sociopolitical situation in West Africa. In that context, they expressed their sympathy to His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to the people of Nigeria in the wake of the tragedy of 17 January 2017 at the Rann camp for internally displaced persons in the state of Borno.

They also welcomed the commitment by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to safeguard democracy in West Africa, as well as the successful mediation that had led to the resolution of the post-election crisis in the Republic of the Gambia.

They warmly congratulated His Excellency Mr. Adama Barrow on his election to the presidency of his country and his inauguration on 19 January 2017. They also congratulated Their Excellencies Mr. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, and Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, for their support of the process.

The Heads of State said that the 27th Africa-France summit, held on 13-14 January 2017 in Bamako on the theme of partnership, peace and emergence, had been a great success.

The Heads of State supported the decisions taken by the African Union High-level Committee on Libya, which had met on 27 January 2017 in Brazzaville and had been chaired by His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, and invited their fellow Africans in Libya to find a political solution to the crisis with the support of the international community.

The Heads of State welcomed the election of Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat as Chair of the African Union Commission and reiterated their support for his work, in particular the task of institutional reform, which had been proposed by the committee led by His Excellency Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda, and adopted at the 28th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa.

The Heads of State welcomed the outcomes obtained in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram and called for the humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin region to be urgently addressed. They also called for support from their international partners with regard to the deradicalization and socioeconomic reintegration of defectors who had agreed to lay down their arms.

The Heads of State heard the report of the Permanent Secretary on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the last summit in N'Djamena regarding:

- Cooperation with the United Nations within the framework of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel;
- Regional cooperation and integration issues;
- Creation of the Joint Force.

They met their cooperation partners in closed session and expressed their great appreciation for the international community's support. They called on all development partners to support the initiatives under way, including the defence and security mechanism of the Group of Five for the Sahel and the financing of its

priority investment programme, through which the development and security vision would be realized.

Recalling the objectives of the Group of Five for the Sahel in terms of achieving human resilience through long-term food security, the Conference of Heads of State instructed the Permanent Secretary to determine member States' capacities and to propose a project for promoting their national fish, agricultural and animal products in order to strengthen food security through a regional integration approach.

The Heads of State thanked His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and the people and the Government of Mali for their warm welcome and for the hospitality they had enjoyed during their stay in the Sahelian part of Mali.

The Heads of State decided that the Group of Five for the Sahel would be chaired by His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, and that the next regular summit meeting would be held in Niamey on a date to be determined.

For Burkina Faso
(*Signed*) Roch Marc Christian **Kaboré**

For the Republic of Mali
(*Signed*) Ibrahim Boubacar **Keita**

For the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
(*Signed*) Mohamed **Ould Abdel Aziz**

For the Republic of the Niger
(*Signed*) Mahamadou **Issoufou**

For the Republic of Chad
(*Signed*) Idriss Deby **Itno**